REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 25, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Hashim. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 8 recites "a first plug housing; a first plug board contained within the first plug housing, the first plug board including . . . a plurality of electrical contacts in electrical connection with the contact pads, the electrical contacts extending through slots for in the first plug housing, the electrical contacts for making electrical contact with pins in an outlet." Support for these features is found in at least paragraphs [0009] and [0010] and Figure 1 of Applicants' specification. Hashim fails to teach these features. Hashim is directed to an outlet, not a plug. Hashim refers to the outlet as a modular jack, and notes that the mating connector with the modular jack is a plug (see column 3, lines 8-20). Thus, Hashim cannot teach the plug electrical contacts and plug structure of claim 8.

For at least the above reasons, claim 8 is patentable over Hashim. Claims 9-13 depend from claim 8 and are patentable over Hashim for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 8.

Further, claims 12 and 13 recite meeting low end NEXT requirements of category 6 and high end NEXT requirements of category 6. Hashim discusses addressing NEXT and FEXT, but does not disclose tuning a plug board to meet **low end or high end** NEXT requirements of category 6.

Claims 1-7 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hashim in view of Autry. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Hashim does not teach a plug, but rather teaches an outlet. Claim 1 recites "a first plug housing; a first plug board contained within the first plug housing, the first plug board including . . . a plurality of electrical contacts in electrical connection with the contact pads, the electrical contacts extending through slots for in the first plug housing, the electrical contacts for making electrical contact with pins in an outlet." Support for these features is found in at least paragraphs [0009] and [0010] and Figure 1 of Applicants' specification.

Hashim fails to teach these features. Hashim is directed to an outlet, not a plug. Hashim refers to the outlet as a modular jack, and notes that the mating connector with the modular jack is a plug (see column 3, lines 8-20).

Further, claim 1 recites that the first plug and the second plug have predefined near end crosstalk between said at least two of said pairs, said second predefined near end crosstalk being at a second level of a second defined range, said second level being higher than said first level. In short, the two plugs have different near end crosstalk. The combination of Hashim and Autry fails to teach these features. Hashim is silent on having two plugs. Autry teaches two test plugs, but makes no teaching of the plugs having different crosstalk levels. In fact, the Examiner notes that the references suggest two similar plugs having similar parameters, not different as recited in claim 1. Claim 2 highlights that the first defined range is the same as the second defined range, but this language refers to range of crosstalk values such as Category 5e or Category 6. The first level of crosstalk and the second level of crosstalk are still different as recited in claim 1. This feature is simply not taught by Hashim or Autry.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Hashim in view of Autry. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Hashim in view of Autry for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1. Claims 14-19 recite features similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1 and are patentable over Hashim in view of Autry for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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